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The Spectator

Thursday, Sept 22, 2022

Volume LXIV
Number III

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Interview with Dean Christopher Card, new Vice President and Dean of Students

by Anoushka Aswin '25
NEWS EDITOR

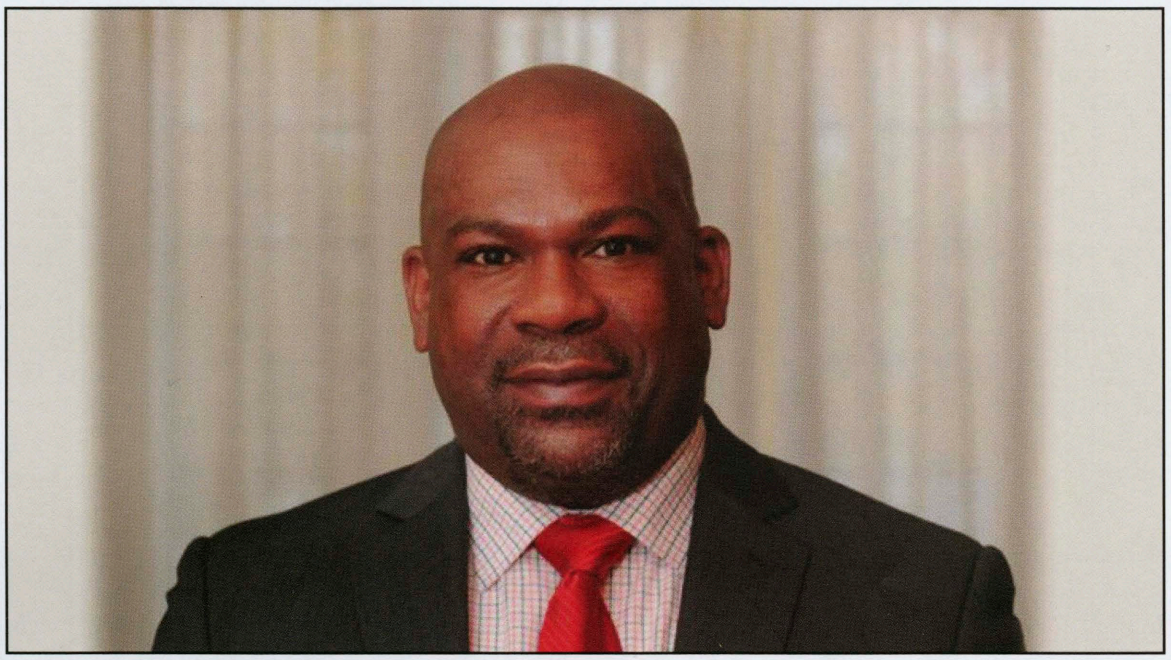

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Christopher Card joined Hamilton as the new VP and Dean of Students this summer.

What does being Dean of Students entail?

My job is really to focus on the student experience outside the classroom and to ensure that the offerings, engagement and the Hamilton experience comport well with what happens in the classroom. But I also don't see these as distinct lines. You'll hear me say often that my goal in part is to blur the lines between what happens in the classroom and what happens outside, so really the whole campus can be one seamless learning experience.

My focus is on all of the things that complement life in the classroom and help students excel as scholars. We want to ensure that life is full. We are really looking at the whole student and educating the whole student.

My job isn't to tell you all what to think! I see my job as helping the proverbial horse navigate itself to water. Whether the horse drinks the water or not, that's really up to the horse. It really is about how we create a qualitative experience, an enriching experience and a full experience to help support you as a scholar. That can mean responding to students in a variety of circumstances—students may have questions about their academic life or social life or questions about how to navigate situations. We often engage parents who have concerns about their students.

We really try to not only help students become strong self-advocates but advocate on their behalf. I see my role as a "Chief Advocate" for students. And I work with a strong team who are also committed to advocacy and student growth. So it's a combined role—I do see presence on campus as a critical part of what I do because that's how I get to know the culture and interests of students.

How do you find a way to connect with students on campus? How can students make a connection with you?

That's a critical thing—so part of it is that I live on campus. In all the institutions I've worked in, I've lived on campus; that's very important to me because I do get a sense of the pace and the tenor and the culture of the place. I get a chance to share the lived lives of students and get a sense of what the issues are and what it is like to walk up and down this hill. I get a chance to dine in the dining facilities to hear about how great the Diner is and how there should be sushi everywhere.

I haven't ridden the jitney yet, but I know about it, and I get to see a sense of where students want to go and why. So part of it is getting to be present and observe. The other part of presence is attending the events—going to places that are important to students. Not only to just get a sense of what the programming and the engagement are, but also to get a sense of what the quality is of our faciltiites.

The other part of it is getting out there and beginning to meet students, hearing from them and getting to meet them where they are comfortable—and to some extent—in their domain. I also have an open-door policy. It still is a learning and intake process for me.

I've been trying to get around and meet students individually and collectively. I do hope that over time students will see me as a strong resource in their own journey through Hamilton. At any point, a student can come to my office or send me an email and say, "Hey, can we meet?" I'm happy to be invited to a meeting someplace else; I've had conversations over lunch or in dining spaces.

I do hope that once my house is settled (I am still somewhat living out of boxes) that it will be a space where I am able to engage students and have students over for dinner and conversations. This has been part of my practice throughout my career and my home: to, within reason, welcome students in for conversations. I do hope that my reputation will be one of someone who is present, engaged and approachable.

Story continued on page 2

Is there anything new about how you will approach your role at Hamilton versus your past experiences?

Part of why I've engaged in those past practices is because they've served me well and they've served the institution well. I think it's important to take time to get familiar with the campus. So it's still a little early for me to figure out what Hamilton's specific nuances are. What I know will not change is this commitment to be present, engaged and accessible. I think as I get a sense of how Hamilton students prefer to meet, where they prefer to meet and what the tone of our conversations is like—I have an adaptive style, so I think I will manage to figure out how to be able to respond and be more accessible. I'm still learning the paces of Hamilton culture.

What are some of your goals for this year?

That's one of the things I'm assessing. Seeing students as partners is a critical part—how do I ensure that what students see as their priorities for their success syncs with what my staff and I want to take on?

Initially, there are a few things that are worth looking at. One is just generally the engagement level of students overall. I was at the activities fair a couple of weeks ago, and it is clear that we have a lot of stuff going on and students are interested, but I also know that's just the start of the term. I'm curious to see if that level of interest and engagement that I noticed under that tent is going to be sustained over the year.

I know that we have challenges in leadership, with being able to bring on new organizations and sustain new organizations and membership. And so I think over the long term leadership development is a space that I do want to explore. As I learn more and more about Hamilton, some of the things that are in the lore are that this is a place where students develop great writing skills and great oratory skills. I'd like us to get to a place where Hamilton is also known to produce great leaders.

I think we're doing a lot of work behind the scenes, but I want to amplify that, particularly as we look at a changing world and labor market outside of Hamilton where these leadership skills are going to be absolutely critical. What happens when you transition through four years of Hamilton and how do you come out as a strong leader? I mean, many of you already come to us as strong leaders, but that is a space I want to focus on.

I also want to think about: given that we are a residential college and that is critical to our identity as a small college, what does that mean for us? Are there ways that we can deepen the residential experience given that it is a critical space for us? I want us to make sure that as we think about residency and know that it is a compelling aspect of the Hamilton experience and that it is strong, it is vibrant, it is diverse and it is rich.

Now that we have a new Vice President for DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) another area for me is to ensure how we really weave our commitment to DEI into the broad scope of the work that we do. Students should be able to experience a place where they feel they belong and that they are valued, regardless of difference or identities.

How will the presence of COVID affect your role on campus this year?

My sense is that Hamilton had a tough time with COVID last year. Well, every college in the nation had a tough time with COVID. I know for me, one of the darkest days in my life as a college administrator was when we had to see the students go home. I hope that we never get to that space again.

I think that we are in a position to look forward and move forward. Now, this is not to presume that COVID has gone away. An important aspect is how well students comply and take care of themselves and take care of each other. I hope that folks have emerged from this with a strong sense of how important it is to be a good community member and know your own duty to keep the rest of the community safe.

I think there is a notion for some that this is not fully behind us. We are able to reconnect socially—being able to meet in groups is something that is a big part of the tradition of the work that we do. But I don't think that we can get complacent.

Even though we might not be doing testing or surveillance...my hope is that we have educated the community enough. And by the community, I don't just mean students. I mean staff and faculty as well. So that we don't get back to the situation where COVID was rampant across the institutions depends on every single one of us...I think we have to be mindful of what happened last year, but we can't be shackled by that.

What are you looking forward to this year?

I'm excited to meet students and figure out from their perspective what it is that I can do to enrich their experience at Hamilton. There's a whole lot of stuff we've been doing and doing very very well, and there's a reason we have the brand that we have. There's a reason why we are Hamilton and why so many folks want to come here. I've heard that we've had a couple of cycles lately of oversubscription and I think that speaks to the power of what we deliver and the experience that students have.

But I also know that there have been spaces where we have been doing some things the same for a long time. So part of me wants to assess what we do and see if there are things that still need to be done. As we get new students year after year, how far exactly is this first-year student body going to change in Hamilton? A quarter of our students are new—they have never experienced this space in this intensive way before. So how do we make sure that given all our traditions and given our practices that what we are doing is still relevant to students who are coming in now and who will continue to come?

But really, it's just spending a lot of time to make sure that we are aligned on our priorities with the student body about where the institution should be, so that folks have a lot of good things to say about how rewarding the experience was and that it was a good decision to come to Hamilton.

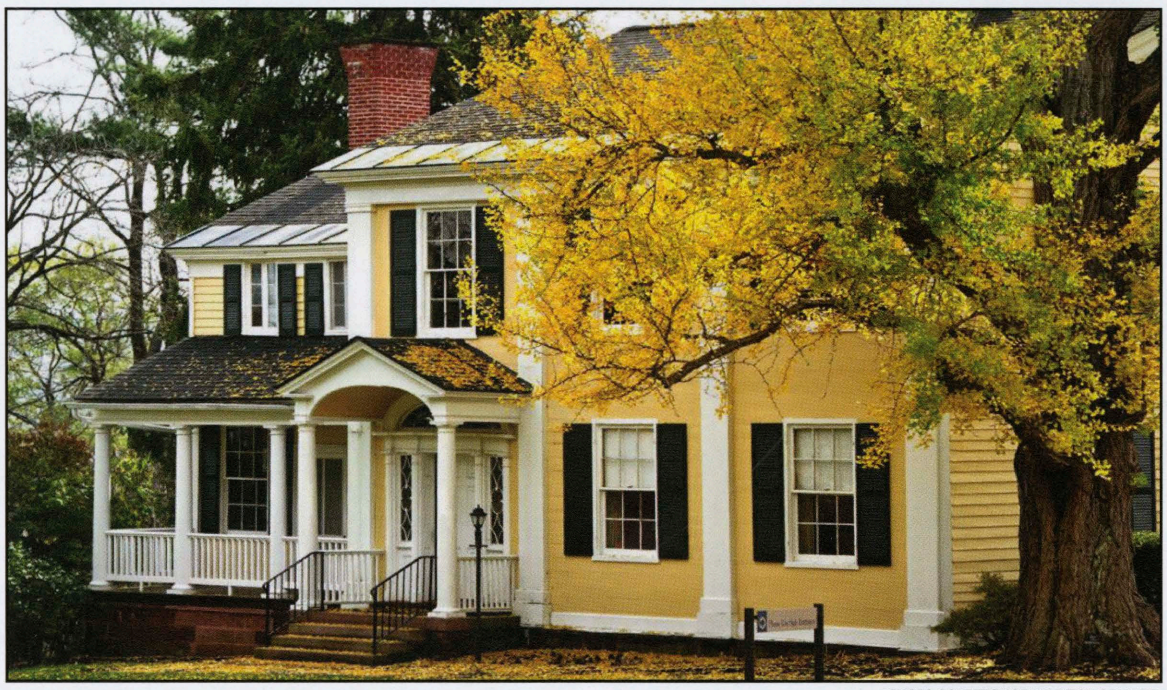

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Dean of Students office is located in Elihu Root House, on the east side of campus.

Interview with ISS Director Dr. Odegbami

by Deanna Durben '25
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Omobonike Odegbami started her role this year as the Director of International Student Services (ISS), a new position and department established to better support international students at the College. International students were formerly governed by Dean Harrison in Multicultural Affairs.

The ISS department currently lends assistance with international travel forms, visas, Social Security, OPT work visas and more. Other resources listed on the website have been limited to those available to all students, such as the Writing Center, the OCC, the QSR and the Counseling Center.

ISS also offers the International Friendship Program (IFP), which connects incoming students with staff or Clinton community members. IFP families will generally host students for meals, take trips to local attractions, and offer assistance in acclimating. We interviewed Dr. Odegbami below:

What brought you to Hamilton?

I wanted to expand on my higher education experience since, for the past 20 years, I have been in the community college setting. I sought out 4-year institutions to get a broader view of the field of international education.

Could you tell me a bit about yourself and your background/experience?

I was born in Chicago, raised in Nigeria (hold dual citizenship), and I'm a married mother of two adult children (ages 27 and 22). I have a degree in Psychology from Bowie State University, an MBA from Northwood University and a doctorate (Ed.D) from Kansas State University. I have been a higher education administrator for 20 years with the last 12 years focusing on international education at the community college level.

As an international student yourself, what do you think is the most important way international students should be supported?

Hamilton college has taken the first step, which is to invest in resources such as a dedicated international student staff member. It is important to be intentional about programs that (1) support international student success; (2) promote international understanding on campus; and (3) to understand government regulations. Beyond on-campus resources, it is important to also build programs to connect with the local community—all of which are part of my goals.

What does the new ISS office do?

My role was created to provide specialized support to international students and give them a sense of belonging. My main goal is to broaden campus integration and engagement opportunities. You can expect to see collaboration between various stakeholders on campus and in the local community to ensure the effective delivery of programs and services.

What changes do you plan to make?

Considering there has never been a true International Student Services department here at Hamilton, I serve as an inaugural Director and I plan to implement programs that give international students a sense of belonging.

There have always been services for international students at Hamilton College, but there has never been a dedicated service or department. My plan is to enhance the services to students by listening to what they want, along with best practices in the field of international education. The support you listed are already here at Hamilton, and I see my role as giving those more visibility through departmental programming. There are plans to expand the departmental staffing.

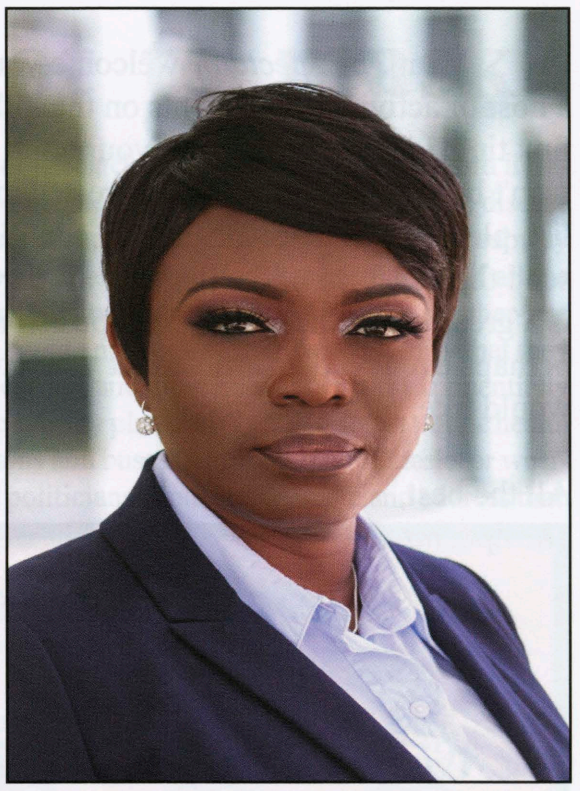

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The ISS department was formed this year.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Thursday, Sept. 15

1:24 p.m. Animal Complaint — Babbitt Residence Hall

6:12 p.m. Animal Complaint — Beinecke Village

6:43 p.m. Motorist Assist — Blood Fitness Center

Friday, Sept. 16

1:19 a.m. Noise Complaint — Bundy Dining Facility

9:02 a.m. Parking Complaint — Bundy East Residence Hall

1:28 p.m. Motorist Assist — Campus Safety Building

6:07 p.m. Medical Emergency — Commons Dining Facility

Saturday, Sept. 17

12:10 a.m. Noise Complaint — Kirner-Johnson Building

8:20 a.m. Motorist Assist — Minor Residence Hall

11:37 a.m. Medical Emergency — North Campus

12:17 p.m. Fire Alarm — North Campus

Sunday, Sept. 18

3:47 p.m. Fire Alarm — North Campus

8:05 p.m. Assist — North Residence Hall

9:42 p.m. Assist — Parking Lots : Ferguson Student Lot

11:21 p.m. Medical Emergency — Parking Lots : KTSA

Monday, Sept. 19

10:00 a.m. Parking Complaint — Parking Lots : Visitor/Little Pub

1:11 p.m. Medical Emergency — Philip Spencer House

Tuesday, Sept. 20

7:18 p.m. Medical Emergency — South Campus

EDITORIAL

Welcome parents and visitors!

We at *The Spectator* welcome you to campus to enjoy a host of activities and events on the hill. Whether it's your first time visiting campus, or your tenth time, we hope it won't be your last. If you're interested in joining our mailing list, please email spec@hamilton.edu. Each week we will send the pdf form of the paper to all parents on the list. This is a great way to hear about campus stories and events, and perhaps even read an article that your student wrote! If you would like, please reach out.

All the best,
The Spectator

Corrections & Amplifications

Readers can alert *The Spectator* to any errors in articles by emailing spec@hamilton.edu.

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

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Celebrating 175 years,
we *were first published as* The Radiator *in 1847.*

Sept 22, 2022

New York COVID restrictions are loosening. To mask, or not to mask?

by Aliana Potter '24
STAFF WRITER

As a public health major at Hamilton College, I have a vested and continued interest in both the government's and college's responses to the ever-evolving COVID-19 crisis. Recently, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced that state officials will lift the former mask mandate on public transit. While masks will still be required in nursing homes, healthcare facilities and hospitals, New York residents will no longer need to don a face covering while riding the subway or bus. According to politicians, COVID-19 is increasingly becoming a pandemic of the past. The governor's decision comes in the wake of falling case counts, hospitalizations and death rates as well as an increased vaccine uptake and lessened case severity. Hochul also insisted that we must seek a return to normalcy.

While I understand the excitement and rationale behind returning to normalcy, I believe that the governor's approach to the end of the mask mandate is irresponsible. Shortly after announcing the decision, new posters were hung in the subway stations that displayed inappropriate ways to wear one's mask and stated that "masks are encouraged, but optional".

Public transit is a unique part of life wherein a great variety of people from all walks of life pack into a small, dirty space with little-to-no ventilation. Infected people have the potential to transmit disease to extremely large numbers of transit users when stepping into a subway car or bus without a properly fitted mask. Because of this, out of all the places to require masks, public transportation would be my number-one priority. Each person has a wide network of friends and family that they are already exposed to everyday, and those networks grow exponentially when placed onto a public subway platform. There is a huge public health risk when everyone on trains and buses begins taking off masks or wearing them improperly, and politicians should understand and address that.

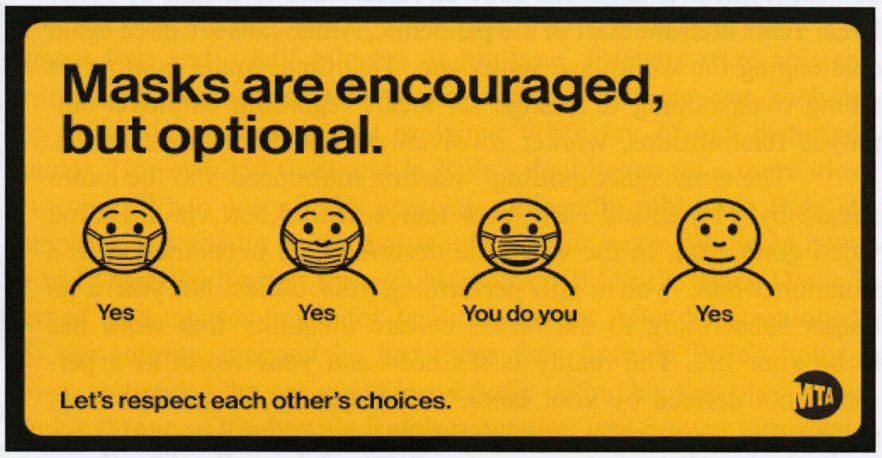

PHOTO COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Instructional signs such as these have been placed around the New York City Subway in an effort to explain the MTA's recent change in mask policy.

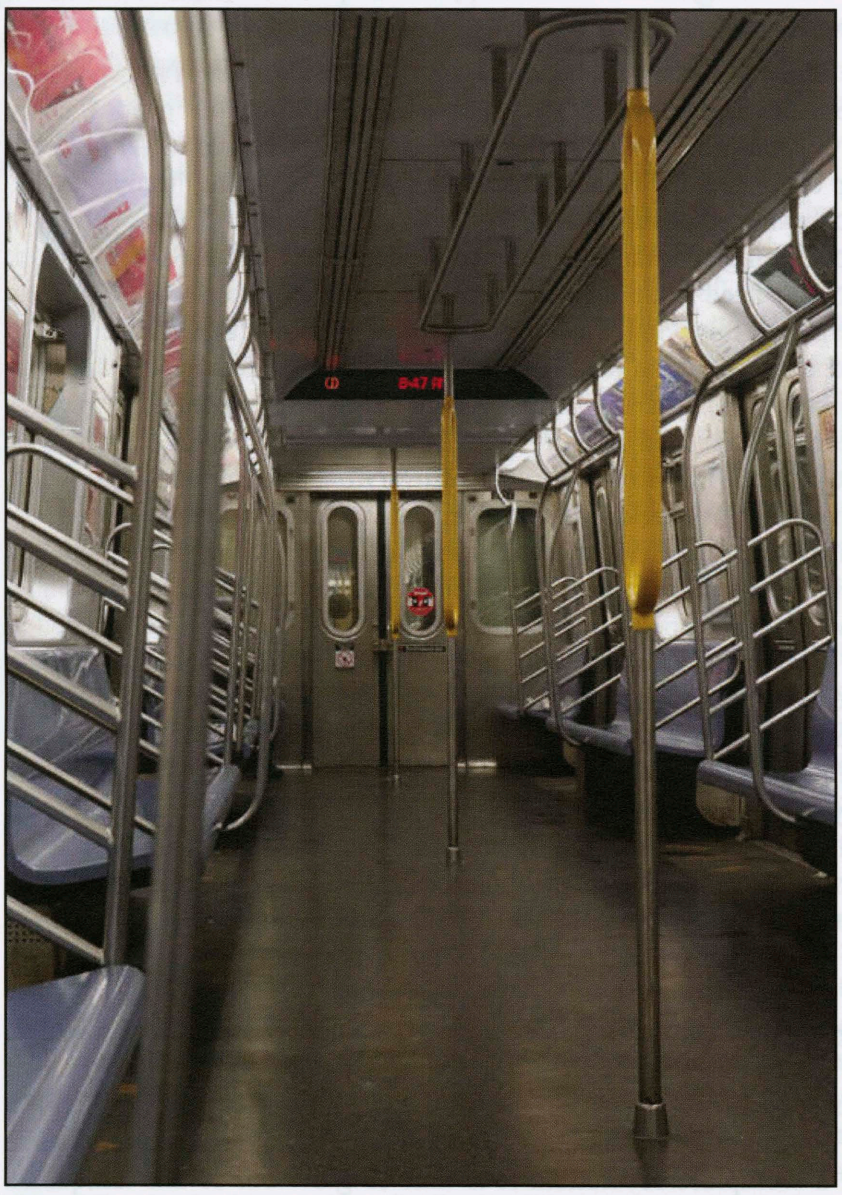

PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS/LUCAS JACKSON

The New York City subway no longer requires passengers to wear masks.

Here on the Hamilton College campus, we are seeing a similar trend. The only strict requirement this semester is that students must be fully vaccinated, with the only exception to this rule being if the students in question have some form of documented exception. Students no longer need to wear masks on campus unless specifically required by a professor or while in the Health Center; nor do students have any required testing plans. If students get COVID-19, they are directed to isolate themselves in their dorm—even if they have roommates—or drive home when possible. Their roommates are under no obligation to wear a mask or isolate themselves unless they begin to experience symptoms, upon which they should take a COVID test themselves. They must isolate for five days and then are allowed to leave without testing negative as long as a mask is worn. While individual professors have introduced their own mandates and instructions, there is little-to-no guidance from the college on any specific type of mask that should be worn.

While I disagree with the state removal of mask mandates, I find that Hamilton College's loosening of policies is much more justifiable than the analogous actions of Gov. Hochul surrounding transportation in New York City. Hamilton has a small number of employees and students who interact with each other every day, often seeing the same group of people over and over. When one student is infected, they are likely to infect their roommate and close friends or coworkers, but not many others. They do not have the potential to step onto a bus and infect hundreds of people walking in and out of the subway doors. Whereas a large city like New York has no way to control, track or respond to the impact of a COVID-infected individual boarding a train and infecting hundreds of people within an hour, Hamilton is a controlled environment with the ability to react quickly in the event of an outbreak; it can thus more easily handle the potential responsibilities that come with loosening COVID restrictions.

Sept 22, 2022

Why 'quiet quitting' is not a problem

by Gregoire Winston '26
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Do we live to work, or work to live? As insignificant and flippant as this question might seem, its importance in the well-being of American workers cannot be understated. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of Americans made a bold choice in quitting their jobs nationwide, choosing the temptation of a more comprehensive personal life over economic stability. Working from home, remote learning and limited social interaction has led to many questioning their livelihoods, further determining what responsibilities are of critical importance, and which are not. Variously dubbed the 'Great Resignation,' 'Great Reshuffle' or the 'Big Quit,' this ideological change has allowed Americans to dream of better lives. Years after the start of the pandemic, Americans are once again challenging the workplace status quo. This time, 'quiet quitting' is taking over, hoping to change set ideals regarding employer-employee relationships, worker involvement and fair compensation.

The term 'quiet quitting' was first introduced into the mainstream by 24-year-old New York native Zaid Khan via a TikTok video gone viral. In the video, he described the phenomenon as a situation where "you're still performing your duties, but you're no longer subscribing to the hustle culture mentality that work has to be your life. The reality is it's not—and your worth as a person is not defined by your labor." While barely 17 seconds long, the concept sent ripples through social media platforms on an international scale, shifting the way many people were accustomed to think of their work. In simple terms, 'quiet quitting' implies doing the bare minimum without going above and beyond one's responsibilities. Uncompensated shifts, overtime hours and any form of work after the traditional 9-5 structure are thus ignored.

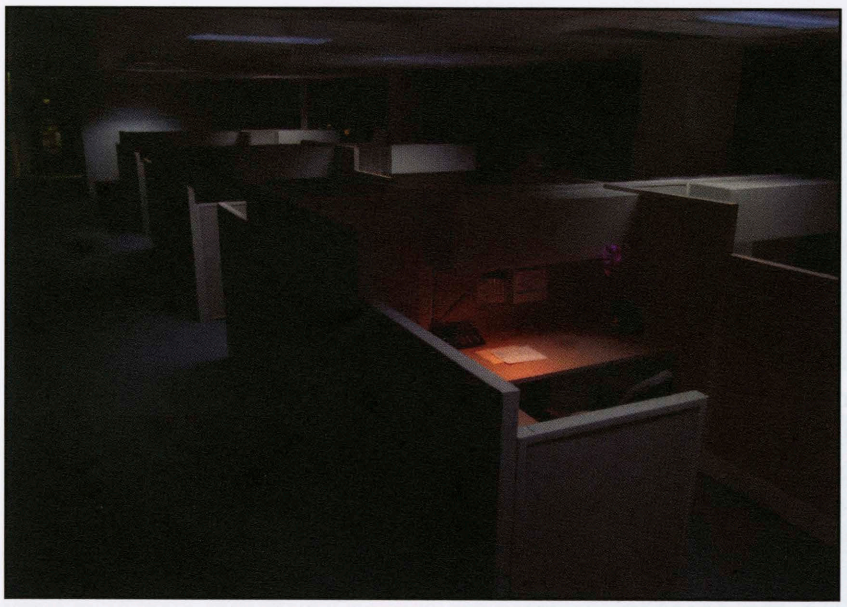

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

'Quiet quitting' has earned approval from many Americans resentful of having to work extra sans compensation, such as mandatory overtime.

Standing in clear defiance to 'hustle culture,' an idea which some consider to be a pillar of America's 21st century capitalist society, seems to be counterproductive and ultimately harmful for employers and employees alike. Yet unsubscribing from the belief that 'productivity trumps all' can help workers free themselves from the chains of workplace culture, adopting a more balanced approach to their personal lives. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw a large majority of the world isolated and working from home, perceptions of workplace effort drastically changed. Physical distancing led to decreased enthusiasm, productivity and overall connection with one's job, according to *The Guardian*. This 'mental checking-out,' the newspaper found, further allowed people the liberty to question where they were in their respective lives and if their values aligned with their daily routines. Spending quality time with family, going out to eat with friends or watching a long-awaited movie in the living room are all activities quiet quitters are starting to embrace. Putting additional projects, late-night emails and group conferences aside is the secret to a quiet quitter's success. Having the ability to disconnect, hence forgetting about the stress of workplace responsibility, gives workers a chance to live a fulfilling life beyond the 9-5.

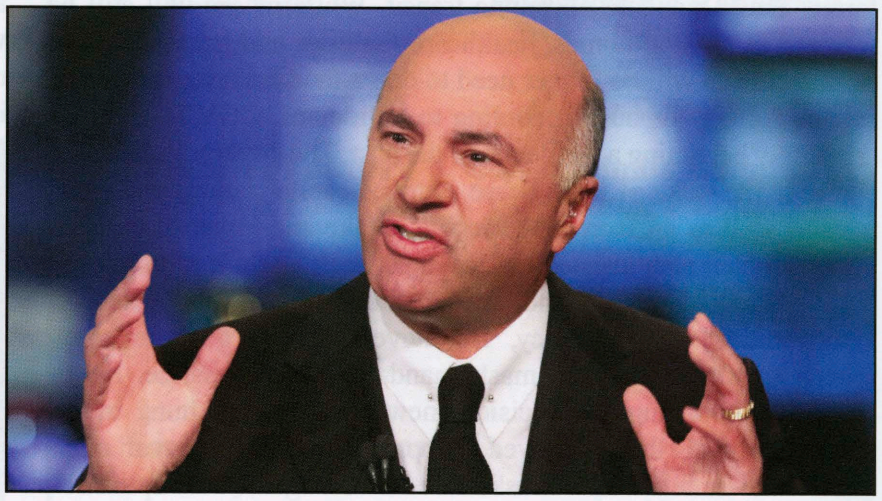

PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

Kevin O'Leary, noted for his appearances on the popular television show Shark Tank, has been dismissive of the trend of 'quiet quitting.'

On Sept. 3, 2022, *The Daily Show* host Trevor Noah posted a clip of himself on Youtube discussing the topic, stating "people in this country are so obsessed with work. Your job is just the place you go to avoid seeing your family." He then further added that one's line of work "doesn't need to be the most important part of [their] existence." He is right on this point. Working in a world overly saturated by competitiveness and a thirst for lucrative opportunities is leading to "American worker burnout at frighteningly high levels," as reported by *Forbes*. Moreover, as stated by NPR Contributor Amina Kilpatrick, "businesses [are] benefit[ing] from a culture of overwork without additional compensation." The lack of financial incentives for people to work past required hours is a driving force behind the 'quiet quitting' trend. With this lack of desire to climb up the corporate ladder, American workers now have an innate opportunity to change their life trajectories for the better.

Critics of 'quiet quitting,' such as *Shark Tank*'s Kevin O'Leary, openly targeted the trend as being "the dumbest idea [he] ha[d] ever heard," during a CNBC interview. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, other followers of the '24/7 grind,' such as influencer Gary Vaynerchuk, adopt a similar view. However, as much as their own philosophies might imply, humans are not machines, and their work cannot be exploited to the point where a genuine sense of purposeness is lost. In a world where Generation Z has reported the lowest workplace engagement in 2021 (31 percent), as brought to light by the *Wall Street Journal*, Americans must adopt a new way of living life that can find satisfaction and happiness outside the workplace.

Built upon the belief that work should be an integral part of everyday life, American society all too often takes pride in turning its citizens into workaholics. Quiet quitting is laying the cornerstone for a workplace revolution. It is time to grow out of this antiquated mentality. Life is much more than work, and Americans need to shift gears if they seek to reap the benefits of a more balanced lifestyle.

Sept 22, 2022

The rich history of disses in music

by Max Bratter '25
A&E EDITOR

"Beef rap, could lead to getting teeth capped/Or even a wreath for mom dukes on some grief crap/I suggest you change your diet/it can lead to high blood pressure if you fry it/Or even a stroke, heart attack, heart disease/It ain't no starting back once arteries start to squeeze." This nuanced lyrical display was showcased by the gone, but never forgotten, legendary rapper MF DOOM. "Beef" is the term most commonly associated with feuding musical artists. Just as its coinciding food of the same name, musical beef can have multiple courses, often consisting of antagonistic displays of wordplay, thematic tropes or suggestive statements. Disses are what gives these approaches their flavor. Fans may believe that only the most publicized battles between artists result in inflammatory lyrics or tracks, but unbeknownst to many, there is a long and rich history of musical conflicts that range from petty to outright egregious.

The form of diss with the least substance are those done in jest. These are often a product of an artist's character that they portray through their music, and have the intention of stirring up unprecedented drama. Eminem is someone who has mastered this method of polarizing speech. Even though the Detroit rapper had many clashes on a grander scale, much of his early material was humor that was at the expense of unknowing victims. In his 2002 track titled "Without Me", Eminem unleashes a barrage of irreverent criticisms, including mocking former Vice-President Dick Cheney's health concerns, as well as MTV and the FCC's strict censorship regulations, that Eminem often fell victim to. While these can be understandably frustrating as the target of these attacks, they are not as personal as the next caliber of disses: thematic allusions.

From 1999 to 2002, boy-band extraordinaire Justin Timberlake and rising pop-star Britney Spears had a widely-broadcasted relationship. After three years of romance though, Timberlake had allegedly discovered that Spears was having an affair at the beginning of his newfound solo-stardom. Thus, Timberlake released "Cry Me A River" as a single for his debut solo album in 2002, featuring a music video that depicts the singer spying on their ex-lover, evoking references to Spears' accused unfaithfulness. While this track never directly mentions its inspiration by name, its use of thematic rhetoric and lyrical contents are suggestive enough that it did not need to be explicitly revealed.

The next step up is the strategy of lyrical suggestions. Albeit, there is also no acknowledgement of names, but the damage can still be just as searing. For example, everybody knows that The Beatles had an extremely messy break-up in 1970, while many assume that Yoko Ono was the catalyst for such a disaster, it is clear that hard feelings remained even after their split. On John Lennon's 1971 track titled "How Do You Sleep?" the former Beatle was consumed by resentment for former bandmate Paul McCartney (as affirmed by Lennon himself in a 1981 interview with *Playboy*). Lennon dove headfirst into the beef by kicking off the track with the following lyrics: "So Sgt. Pepper took you by surprise/You better see right through that mother's eyes/Those freaks was right when they said you was dead/The one mistake you made was in your head." Referencing both a prior Beatles album, as well as conspiracy theories that claimed McCartney had died in a freak accident years ago, Lennon decimated his former peer in such a blunt, but subversive fashion, which ultimately paves the way to the final execution of a diss in all its confrontational glory.

There were two beefs that defined the beginning of the 21st century, a critical time for the growth of hip-hop as a mainstream genre: Nas vs. Jay-Z and 50 Cent Vs. Ja Rule. Jay-Z and Nas' battle stemmed from the two artists both reaching for the crown that would certify them as the king of the New York hip-hop scene. Nas' debut *Illmatic* is often mentioned in the discussion as the best rap album of all time, but after a stunning entrance into the game, the public agreed that the Queens rapper's quality massively fell off. Jay-Z was steadily growing, and with the help of Kanye West's production, became the most popular rapper in the world. They were set for collision, and collide they did. Jay-Z's "Takeover" was a broad series of insults hurled towards "phony" peers that came up as artists with him, but Nas' "Ether" took it to another level. Throughout "Ether"'s almost four and a half minutes of run-time, listeners were able to witness a verbal assault that was as direct as one can get, including its continuous refrain that exclaims "F**k Jay-Z" in a distorted candor. However, 50 Cent and Ja Rule's duel began on a more violent tone. When one of 50's associates allegedly robbed Ja Rule at gunpoint, it started a brawl that would last for years. While Ja never truly asserted himself through his music, 50 Cent's "Back Down" served as a nuclear bomb for Ja Rule's career. After 50 questioned his masculinity, claimed he had more fans from Ja Rule's hometown, and ended the onslaught by verbally taking his seat upon New York's throne of hip-hop, Ja Rule's reputation was forever tarnished.

Beef is all good fun until someone gets hurt though. In the case of The Notorious B.I.G. and 2Pac, that is exactly what happened. As the East and West-coast fissure in hip-hop became a crater in the 90s, the two aforementioned artists were the ambassadors for their respective locations. What started as an enthralling skirmish between two of the greatest minds in hip-hop history ended in death, reminding listeners that musical acts are not always acting. It is understandable to enjoy fairweather drama when that is exactly what it is, but as it is evident through the extensive history of the diss, its level must be understood in order to prevent it from escalating into reality.

PHOTO BY ULIMATE CLASSIC ROCK

Eminem's rise to fame consisted of many controversial attacks on other artists.

Wellin exhibit marks 10 years of service

by Surya Gowda '23
MANAGING EDITOR

Sitting directly across the street from the KTSA pond, the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art is an art hub on campus. Holding over 7,000 pieces in its collection, it is a space of teaching, educating and art appreciation. This year marks the 10 year anniversary of the Wellin's founding, which began in 2012 with the Hamilton's want for a localized space for college-owned antiquities and art. Machado and Silvetti Associates designed the 30,537 square-foot building, changing the perception of what a museum looks like by revealing internal office and teaching spaces to the public. As a teaching museum, the Wellin is used by faculty and students alike through classes, work opportunities and programs for off campus communities.

The anniversary exhibit titled Dialogues Across Disciplines: Celebrating ten years opened on Saturday, presenting 146 works, a mere 2% of the museum's collection. It celebrates a decade of the 35 exhibitions, over 500 class visits, 2,000 acquisitions and donations and 100,000 museum visitors.

The opening included a lively merchandise table offering anniversary hats, shirts and posters, as well as food and drink for visitors. The exhibition, curated by Johnson-Pote Director Tracy L. Adler and Assistant Curator of Exhibitions and Academic Outreach Alexander Jarman, highlights the pieces in the Wellin's collection that are highly requested by faculty and students as well as works that best represent the collection. Unlike previous exhibitions, the show will run until the spring with some switches of works to diversify from pieces in the collection. It is exciting to see the museum highlight works that are not usually on display and for faculty, staffand students alike to have the opportunity to see the grandeur that is the Wellin Museum.The show is a must see for all students on campus. As parent's weekend approaches, the exhibition is the perfect destination for quality time with family.

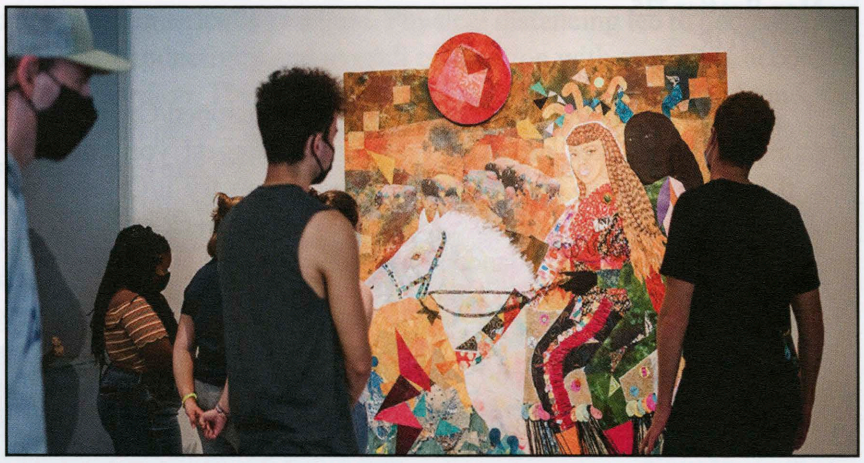

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Students observe a piece at the Wellin's 10th anniversary show.

Flow-Melodics: Kickoff jazz concert certified groovy at Wellin Hall

by Allen Underwood '25
A&E CONTRIBUTER

On Sept.18, the Hamilton community was treated to a night of slick riffs and groovy melodies, courtesy of an ensemble led by Professor Doc Woods. Hard bop and cool jazz were the Doc's prescription, beautifully performed at the Schambach Center in Wellin Hall. The setlist featured creative recontextualization of familiar melodies, transforming them to fit a modern interpretation of jazz. For instance, "Fish Nest" was a smooth, downtempo number that faintly echoed Charlie Parker's "Bird's Nest."

While classic melodies provided an inspiration for the setlist, all the songs played were original compositions "from the Cauldron of Groove." "Fighting Back," a fast, energetic piece, featured a blistering synth solo courtesy of pianist Tom Witowski. "Anna Tooh," the second segment of a two part piece, was a more laid back affair. With a contemplative saxophone solo from Joe Carello, and downright funky guitar chords from Joe Handy, "Anna Tooh" concluded the show with a varied composition touching on many different emotional cues.

The bouncy "Foraging For Food," guided by a tight drumline from drummer Jakubu Griffin, was as jaunty as it was introspective. "The Honing Inn," a chilled-out groove with excellent brass accompaniment from trumpeter Jeff Stockham and trombonist Angelo Candela, was another highlight of the evening. Throughout the performance, Doc Woods engaged the audience with his world-famous jokes and puns. "Fish don't build nests," Doc quipped. "Or they can, but it's under the sea."

The crowd loved the performances as well as the jokes, giving the ensemble a standing ovation at the end of the show. "It was really awesome," remarked Brendan Stewart, '25. "The music was bumpin,' and I'm glad I had the opportunity to hear these great players live." Everyone in attendance was entranced by the harmonic tunes and vibrations.The atmosphere was convivial; those present were all gathered for their love of jazz. Clean, clear sound mixing enhanced the experience, offering amazing sound quality that enhanced the event. "Flow-Melodics" kicked off Hamilton's jazz calendar: the series continues with a performance by jazz vocalist Giacomo Gates at the Filius Events Barn on Friday, September 23rd.

Furthermore, Wellin-Hall will host a performance from The Cookers on Friday, October 21st. All in all, "Flow-Melodics" was an electrifying experience. The skill of the performers was palpable, and they provided an enjoyable look at the breadth of expression possible within jazz. "Flow-Melodics" is an example of what jazz does best: getting people together through the transcendence of music. The Hamilton community thanks Doc Woods and the ensemble for providing a groovy, beautiful journey through jazz.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PBS

The jazz concert at Wellin Hall echoed sounds of the greats like Louis Armstrong.

Sept 22, 2022

Pearl (2022): an x-traordinary prequel

by Jason Le '23
STAFF WRITER

Shot back-to-back, Ti West is back with *Pearl* (2022), a prequel to *X* (2022) and origin story for the villainous Pearl. However, rather than continuing with a 70s slasher aesthetic, West trades that in for a technicolor palette reminiscent of films like *Gone with the Wind* (1940) and *The Wizard of Oz* (1938). Even the opening credits capture the colorful landscape, a sign that adventure, hope and the American Dream are out there. However, like Pearl herself, the colorful backdrop only serves as a curtain to the horror that lies behind it.

West takes the audience 60 years before the events of *X* to 1918 Texas, a time ravaged by the Spanish Flu and Great War. The audience follows Pearl, a fame-thirsty, horny and impulsive serial killer, as she attempts to escape her life as a farmer's daughter and break into a career in the pictures. She practices her dance routine, in which we see her gracefully perform in *X*, living in a fantasy away from the bleak reality caused by an overbearing mother and husband away at war. Living at home, Pearl is forced to take care of her crippled father all while under the watch of her mother. She prays every night for her husband, Howard, to return from the war. Plagued with loneliness and sexual repression, Pearl wants to escape her family farm and suffocating life, which she does by escaping into her cheerful fantasies. However, one can only take so much. Slowly, she grows mad, ultimately climbing up the food chain from goose killer to human killer.

Although the kills are not as brutal as in its predecessor, *X*, *Pearl* is just as terrifying in its own way. This fear is elicited by the unpredictable nature of the titular character who seems like she is going to snap at any second. What was remarkable about *Pearl* was Mia Goth's award-worthy winning performance. One minute, Goth turns Pearl into a childish character; the next, she becomes seductive, and finally, a homicidal maniac. Goth's most powerful performance in the film comes when Pearl is having difficulties navigating reality as she knows it versus the world everyone else sees. There is a moment in the film where, despite knowing full well the ruthless villain she becomes, the audience can't help but sympathize with her. When watching *X* again, it's difficult to not pity Pearl despite how evil she is. Ultimately, it's hard to not see Pearl as a sheltered girl who simply doesn't know how to cope with reality. Mia Goth's performance perfectly encapsulates that character essence through her body language and facial expressions. Again, without spoiling too much, Goth's final performance of Pearl's monologue brings her character home, turning her from a villain to a misunderstood and broken young woman.

THE X-TRAORDINARY ORIGIN STORY
Mia Goth
PEARL
A Film by Ti West
A24 PRESENTS A LITTLE LAMB PRODUCTION A FILM BY TI WEST "PEARL"
MIA GOTH DAVID CORENSWET TANDI WRIGHT MATTHEW SUNDERLAND
EMMA JENKINS-PURRO CASTING BY STU TURNER KARLA SPIKA MUSIC BY TYLER BATES AND TIM WILLIAMS
COSTUME DESIGNER MALGOSIA TURZANSKA EDITED BY TI WEST PRODUCTION DESIGNER TOM HAMMOCK
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ELIOT ROCKETT LINE PRODUCER JARED CONNON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIA GOTH PETER PHOK
SAM LEVINSON ASHLEY LEVINSON SCOTT MESCUDI DENNIS CUMMINGS KARINA MANASHIL
PRODUCED BY JACOB JAFFKE, p.g.a. TI WEST, p.g.a. KEVIN TUREN HARRISON KREISS
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY TI WEST WRITTEN BY TI WEST & MIA GOTH
DIRECTED BY TI WEST
R
A24

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Pearl's predecessor, *X* (2022), was released just six months ago.

PHOTO COURTESY OF POLYGON

Mia Goth is the star of both of Ti West's installements in the franchise.

Like the 70s aesthetic West approached *X* with, combining classic slasher and modern day horror movie tropes, the decision to combine the technicolor, transitions and music of Hollywood's Golden Age, and pays homage to that era in cinema and modern horror tropes makes Pearl a good horror movie to watch. However, make no mistake; the film is violent and bloody, almost like *The Wizard of Oz* crawled straight out of hell.

Overall, *Pearl* is a origin story, allowing the audience to learn more about the character when revisiting *X*. If you are a fan of Golden Age Hollywood or slasher and horror flicks, *Pearl* is definitely a worthwhile watch. If you are looking for a good time with friends, the film is now out in theaters. Afterwards, maybe you should save that walk down G-Road for another time.

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and

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The inaugural fantasy football team review

by Chris Harrison '23
SPORTS EDITOR

With the NFL season well underway, one of the most popular activities is fantasy football. For those who do not know what fantasy is or how it works, here is a brief explanation: Fantasy football gives fans the opportunity to draft players from various NFL teams to create a "fantasy" team of football players. Players join fantasy leagues, usually of around eight to twelve people and pit their teams up against friends and other league members. Each week, players in a league are matched up against one another. The winner of a matchup is determined by which teams' NFL players get the most fantasy points, which are earned by a player's in-game stats that week. For instance, if I have Tom Brady on my fantasy team and he throws a touchdown pass, my team would get four fantasy points. Members of a league will match up against a different opponent each week of the season until the teams with the best records compete in a playoff for the league championship.

Given the popularity of fantasy football, I will be publishing a biweekly column reviewing a fantasy football team and giving some general fantasy opinions for the week. If you would like your team to be reviewed, send a screenshot of your squad along with league details (how many members, PPR, etc.) to sportspec@hamilton.edu. For my reviews I will give teams grades by position and an overall grade. The first team I will be reviewing is in the league I am currently in. The league is a 12-team, full PPR (point-per-reception) league with members mostly being juniors or seniors at Hamilton.

Team: Yung Kimosabe
Manager: Nicholas Ng '23

Quarterback: B

Tom Brady struggled so far this season but I still have hope that he can return to the form that allowed him to be the third highest scoring fantasy quarterback last year. While he may not rank that high among quarterbacks this season, he is still a good starting quarterback in any league. Jared Goff is also a solid backup in a 12-team format.

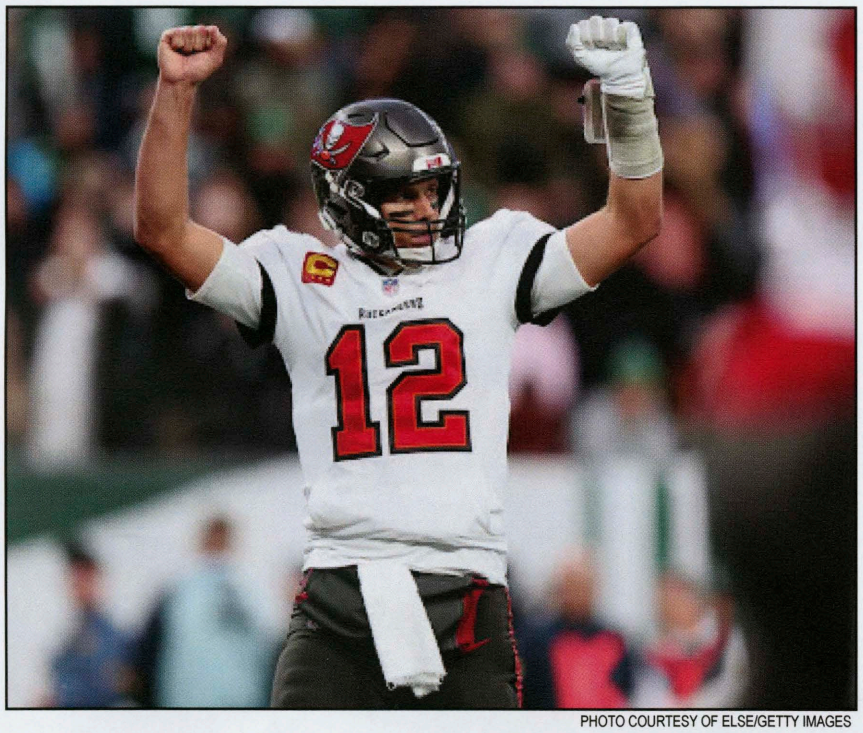

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELSE/GETTY IMAGES

Tom Brady was an elite fantasy quarterback in 2021, ranking third in total points, but he has struggled so far this season.

STARTERS			NFL WEEK 3							2022 SEASON		
PLAYER	OPP	STATUS	PROJ	SCORE	OPRK	%ST	%ROST	+/-	PRK	FPTS	AVG
Jared Goff Det QB	@Min	Sun 1:00 PM	16.2	--	21st	6.4	19.4	+13.1	9	41.54	20.8
Aaron Jones GB RB	@TB	Sun 4:25 PM	13.9	--	3rd	92.6	99.6	-0.1	4	42.6	21.3
Darrell Henderson Jr. LAR RB	@Ari	Sun 4:25 PM	10.6	--	26th	41.3	86.7	+40.7	25	23.0	11.5
Justin Jefferson Min WR	Det	Sun 1:00 PM	20.1	--	25th	99.7	99.9	0	6	50.2	25.1
Amon-Ra St. Brown Det WR	@Min	Sun 1:00 PM	17.7	--	19th	80.4	97.3	+1.3	4	59.8	29.9
Kyle Pitts Atl TE	@Sea	Sun 4:25 PM	9.6	--	17th	87.7	98.9	-0.9	35	7.8	3.9
Tyler Lockett Sea WR	Atl	Sun 4:25 PM	12.4	--	30th	23.0	87.5	-3.3	32	25.5	12.8
Falcons D/ST Atl D/ST	@Sea	Sun 4:25 PM	6.4	--	26th	3.6	4.4	+4.1	5	21.0	10.5
Chris Boswell Pit K	@Cle	Thu 8:15 PM	7.3	--	17th	15.1	17.4	+6	6	21.0	10.5
		TOTALS	114.1	0.0						292.44	146.22
JuJu Smith-Schuster KC WR	@Ind	Sun 1:00 PM	11.3	--	10th	41.1	92.6	-2.2	60	15.9	8.0
Dameon Pierce Hou RB	@Chi	Sun 1:00 PM	11.8	--	20th	17.2	83.0	-5.4	44	13.6	6.8
Tom Brady TB QB	GB	Sun 4:25 PM	17.9	--	12th	59.5	95.1	-1.6	29	19.78	9.9

PHOTO COURTESY OF ESPN FANTASY FOOTBALL AND NICK NG '23

Nick Ng's fantasy team, Yung Kimosabe is currently 2-0 in league play with 230 points scored to start the season

Running backs: B-

Despite a great performance last week, Aaron Jones is still a low-end running back. Jones was the 11th ranked back last year but seems to be splitting more time with AJ Dillon in the backfield this season. Darrell Henderson is not good for a running back, even in a 12-team league. Cam Akers got a considerable amount of work last week as the Rams went with a committee approach in the backfield. If this trend continues I would look to bring in a better option at the second running back spot.

Wide Receiver: A-

Justin Jefferson is an elite fantasy wide receiver and is my pick to finish as the top wide receiver this year. He gets consistent targets and makes big plays. There are few, if any, better options than him at the position. Amon-Ra St. Brown has looked phenomenal this year, coming in as the fourth ranked receiver after the first two weeks. While I do not expect him to remain in the top 10 at his position all year, he still is a great second starter at reciever. The only reason this group does not have an A is because Tyler Lockett and JuJu Smith-Schuster are not great flex options. They both lack consistent production but can have big days.

Tight End: B+

Kyle Pitts has not put up many fantasy points this year so far, but he is too talented to give up on just yet. He's the best player on the Falcons offense and they will find ways to get him involved. Don't bail on Pitts just yet, I anticipate he will consistently improve his production as he builds a rapport with Marcus Mariota.

Overall Grade: B

Overall, this is a strong team with a few holes, especially at running back. I think this team has playoff potential but without a few upgrades during the season, I don't know if I see this team reaching the championship. I suggest keeping an eye out for trades and wavier wire adds to improve your running backs.

Fantasy Starts of the Week

Gabriel Davis of the Buffalo Bills didn't play last week, opening the door for Stefon Diggs to have one of the best fantasy performances so far this year. After that great performance, much of Miami's defense will be focused on Diggs, giving Davis the opportunity for a lot of one-on-one matchups. In an offense that throws deep as much as the Bills look for Davis to have a performance to rival the 18.8 points he put up in Week one.

Roger Federer hangs up his racquet

by Owen Lewis '24
SPORTS EDITOR

After more than 20 years on the profesional tennis tour, Roger Federer has announced his retirement from the sport. Retirement has been in the air for tennis this year. Serena Williams—who, like Federer, is a generational talent who amazed with dominance and longevity alike —had her swan song just two weeks ago at the U.S. Open. Unlike Williams, though, Federer's final match will not be under ideal circumstances. Plagued with a persistent knee injury, Federer is forced to choose the Laver Cup (an exhibition-style tournament with far lower stakes than a major event) as his last event. He will not be able to play singles, the format in which he racked up a previously record-high 20 major titles on the ATP. His final match will likely be a melancholic feel-good doubles match with longtime rival Rafael Nadal as his partner.

Federer was a fiercely dominant figure in the early to late 2000s. Wimbledon was (and is) widely regarded as the most prestigious tournament out there, and Federer won it five times in a row from 2003 to 2007. Towards the end of his run, Nadal, who had been the #2 to Federer's #1 for several years, started to breathe down Federer's neck. When those two players met in the 2008 final, Federer bidding for his sixth straight Wimbledon title, sparks flew. Nadal jumped out to a massive lead, winning the first two sets and seizing control of the third, but Federer launched a sustained comeback, stealing the next two sets in close tiebreaks. Though Federer eventually lost in a heartbreakingly tight fifth set as night fell, it was a perfect end to his streak at Wimbledon. He had ruled the place for years and years, then gave up the keys to his biggest rival only after the most savage of battles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

Federer waves to the adoring Wimbledon crowd, who watched him win the tournament a men's-record eight times.

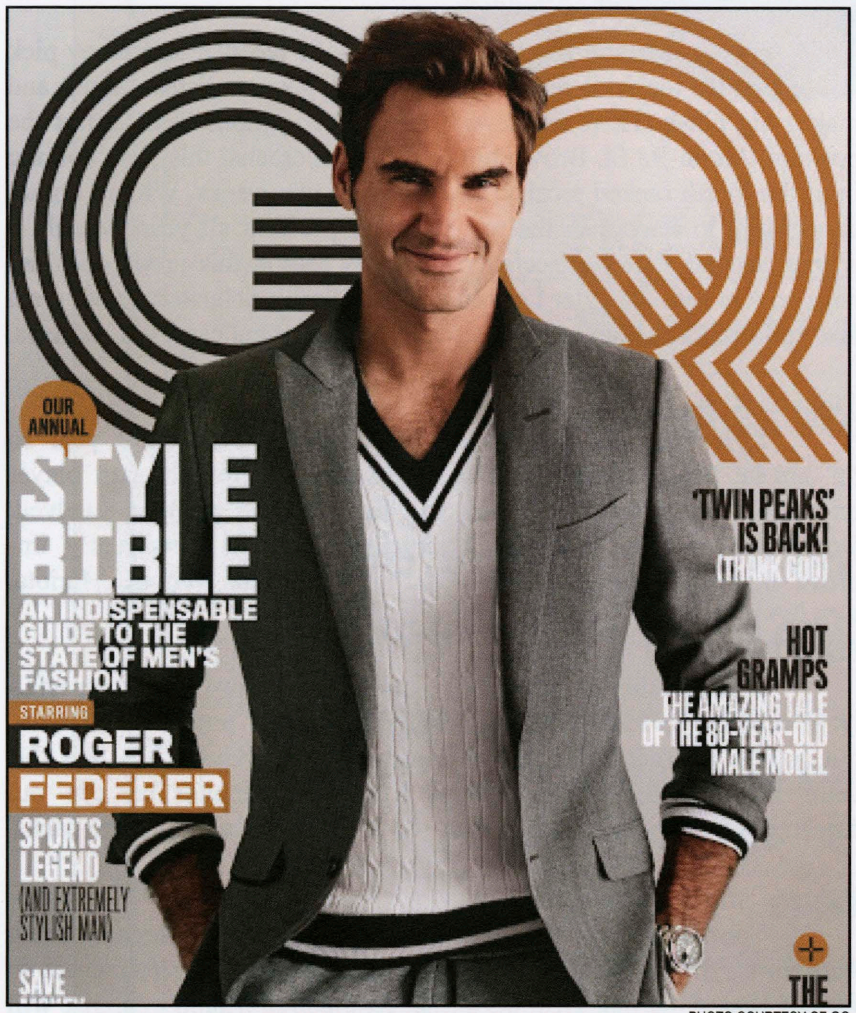

PHOTO COURTESY OF GQ

Along with being one of the greatest tennis players ever, some consider Federer, sometimes sporting eye-catching jackets, a style icon.

Federer's retirement is the polar opposite of his early arc at Wimbledon. Ideally, after such a glittering career—he once spent 237 consecutive weeks occupying the number one spot in the rankings—his time on tour would come to an end with an epic match, or a final tournament victory. But Federer is 41, and tennis rarely shows any tenderness to even its best players. Federer avoided bad injuries for the vast majority of his career; some say his most impressive stat is playing over 1500 professional matches and not retiring through injury in the middle of a single one.

Federer is not retiring because he wants to, his body simply will not allow him to play any longer—is a cruelly ironic fate. While Federer's last match will not represent the career that preceded it, he will leave an immense legacy. He was the first of the Big Three—the triumvirate of tennis titans including him, Nadal and Novak Djokovic—and therefore the player to set the bar for those to follow. Nadal and Djokovic, in tailoring their games to beat Federer specifically, reached some startling heights along with their elder rival. Those three played each other again and again, each time producing matches or individual points that simply could not have existed in previous years. Federer played Nadal 40 times, Djokovic 50 times. (Djokovic and Nadal, who are still in their mid-thirties and shared three of the four major titles this year, have clashed 59 times and may yet go past 60.) As the first, Federer must get significant credit for ushering in this golden era.

Federer said in an interview with *NPR*'s Savannah Guthrie that he would not be a stranger to tennis post-retirement, mentioning that Björn Borg had taken 25 years to visit Wimbledon after the end of his career. Guthrie, like so many others, admitted to having a Federer obsession in the past. Federer commands immense respect among his fellow tennis players; they have voted him to the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship award a staggering 13 times in the last 20 years. Federer has been voted fan favorite by the masses 19 times. Even the Laver Cup event, where he is to play his last match, is his brainchild. Federer mused in a recent interview that he might like commentating one day. He is not going anywhere.